Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:

determining block boundaries in the image;

determining an approximate metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility;

adaptively filtering luminance to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility;

adaptively adjusting local saturation variation to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility; and [[;]]

adaptively simulating high spatial frequency image detail to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility.[[;]]

~~wherein the adaptive steps are executed to a degree or an amount dependent on the metric of artifact severity.~~

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein prior to adaptively filtering luminance, luminance values are interpolated across block boundaries

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein in conjunction with adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.

4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein in conjunction with adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.

5. (currently amended) A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:

determining block boundaries in the image;

determining an approximate metric of block transforming encoding artifact visibility;

adaptively filtering luminance with a filter to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility;

adaptively increasing local chrominance contrast to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility; and [[;]]

adaptively simulating high frequency image detail by means of sharpening and adding addition of noise to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility.[[;]]

wherein the adaptive steps are executed to degree that depends on the metric of artifact visibility.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein prior to adaptively filtering luminance, luminance values are interpolated across block boundaries.

7. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein after adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.

8. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein after adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.

9. (currently amended) A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:

determining block boundaries in the image;

adaptively filtering luminance in one or more blocks defined by the block boundaries; and

adaptively adjusting local saturation variation in one or more blocks defined by the block boundaries.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising: ~~the step of~~

determining a block boundary in the image, the block boundary being centered around a center pixel having a chrominance value;

selecting a median filter window based on luminance texture of pixels within the block boundary; and ~~an assessment of a pixel value according to a variance of a binary mask~~

replacing the chrominance value of the center pixel with a median chrominance value of pixels within the median filter window.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 1.

19. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 2.

20. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 5.

21. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 8.

22. (canceled)

By Facsimile

23. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 15.

24. (currently amended) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding, the computer process comprising:

   determining block boundaries in the block transform encoded image;

   determining an approximate metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility;

   adaptively filtering luminance in the block transform encoded image to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility;

   adaptively adjusting local saturation variation in the block transform encoded image to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility; and [[;]]

   adaptively simulating high spatial frequency image detail in the block transform encoded image to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility.[[;]]

   ~~wherein the adaptive steps are executed to a degree or an amount dependent on the metric of artifact severity.~~

25. (currently amended) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding, the computer process comprising:

   determining block boundaries in the block transform encoded image;

   determining an approximate metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility;

   adaptively filtering luminance in the block transform encoded image with a filter to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility;

adaptively increasing local chrominance contrast in the block transform encoded image to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility; and [[;]]

adaptively simulating high frequency image detail in the block transform encoded image to a degree dependent on the metric of block transform encoding artifact visibility by sharpening the block transform encoded image and adding noise to the block transform encoded image. [[image;]]

~~wherein the adaptive steps are executed to degree that depends on the metric of artifact visibility.~~

26. (currently amended) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding, the computer process comprising:

determining block boundaries in the block transform encoded image;

adaptively filtering luminance within the block boundaries of [[in]] the block transform encoded image; and

adaptively adjusting local saturation variation within the block boundaries of [[in]] the block transform encoded image.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding, the computer process comprising:

determining a block boundary in the image, the block boundary being centered around a center pixel having a chrominance value;

selecting a median filter window based on luminance texture of pixels within the block boundary; and ~~an assessment of a pixel value according to a variance of a binary mask~~

replacing the chrominance value of the center pixel with a median chrominance value of pixels within the median filter window.

29. (canceled)